

CRIME IN MAINE 1998 — HIGHLIGHTS

During 1998 the crime clock average in Maine reflected the following:

VIOLENT CRIMES: 1 every 5 hours, 35 minutes1 Murder every 14 days, 55 minutes1 Rape every 34 hours, 15 minutes1 Robbery every 33 hours, 18 minutes1 Aggravated Assault every 8 hours, 20 minutes
PROPERTY CRIMES: 1 every 14 minutes, 24 seconds1 Burglary every 63 minutes, 20 seconds1 Larceny every 19 minutes, 52 seconds1 Motor Vehicle Theft every 5 hours, 46 minutes1 Arson every 43 hours, 22 minutes
CRIME RATEThe Crime Rate is based on the occurrence of an Index Offense per 1,000 residents of the state. Local and county rates are based on their individual populations. The State Crime Rate for 1998 was 30.81 per 1,000. The comparable rate for 1997 was 31.62. The 1998 state population is estimated at 1,235,000 persons.
INDEX OFFENSESThere were 38,053 Index Offenses reported by police during 1998 — a decrease of 1,001 offenses (2.6%) from the 39,054 similar offenses reported in 1997.
VIOLENT CRIMESMurder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault make up the Violent Crimes category. Violent crimes as a group increased by 78 offenses from 1997 for a 5.2% increase. During 1998 violent crimes totaled 1,570, compared to a 1997 total of 1,492. Violent crimes accounted for 4.1% of all reported index crimes (3.8% in 1997) and represent a crime rate of 1.27 per 1,000 population.
PROPERTY CRIMESProperty Crimes, consisting of Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson, fell in 1998 by 1,079 offenses (2.9%) from 1997. There were 36,483 offenses reported in 1998 with 37,562 being shown for 1997. Property crimes account for 95.9% of all index crimes with a crime rate of 29.54 offenses per 1,000 population.
MURDERThere were 26 murders committed in Maine during 1998 — up by 7 (36.8%) from the 19 murders reported in 1997. Law enforcement cleared 25 murders this year. Maine's 10-year average is 25 homicides annually.

RAPE	Forcible Rapes decreased by 25 reported offenses during 1998. There were 254 offenses reported to police in 1997, compared to 229 in 1998. Of the total, 208 were actual rapes, while 21 were classified as attempts to commit forcible rape.
ROBBERY	Robberies increased by 1.9% (5 offenses) during 1998, from 258 in 1997 to 263 in 1998.
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	Law enforcement reported 1,052 Aggravated Assaults during 1998, an increase of 9.5% from the 1997 figure of 961. Simple assaults (a non-index crime) increased by 0.5% during 1998 with 10,299 offenses reported.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	All offenses of assault between family or household members are reported as Domestic Assault and account for 34.0% of all assaults. During 1998 police reported 3,855 offenses, a decrease of 367 (8.7%) from the 4,222 offenses reported in 1997.
BURGLARY	The number of Burglaries during 1998 rose by 1.0% compared with those in 1997. There was an increase of 82 from the 1997 total of 8,218. The 8,300 burglaries reported statewide resulted in property loss totaling \$6,325,360. Burglaries represent 21.8% of all reported index offenses.
LARCENY-THEFT	The crime of Larceny decreased during 1998 by 3.6% from the 27,449 larceny offenses reported in 1997. Police reported 26,464 larceny crimes during 1998. Shoplifting decreased 11.3% and thefts from motor vehicles decreased 7.2% for 37.5% of all larceny crimes reported.
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	Motor Vehicle Theft registered a decrease of 125 offenses during 1998, from 1,642 in 1997 to 1,517. A high of 2,764 motor vehicles were reported stolen during 1978.
ARSON	The crime of Arson was added to the list of reportable index crimes in 1980. During 1998 there were 202 arsons reported, down 51 (20.2%) from the 253 arsons reported for 1997. Estimated property loss caused by arson totaled over \$2.2 million during 1998 — up 112.4%.
HATE CRIME	Beginning in 1992, Hate Crime was added as a new reporting requirement. During 1998, police reported 57 incidents involving 77 victims and resulting in a total of 79 offenses.
STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY	During 1998 law enforcement agencies recorded \$23,785,312 worth of property stolen during the commission of index crimes — a decrease of 6.6% from the \$25,476,219 stolen during 1997. Police were able to recover 34.1% (\$8,100,971) of stolen property during 1998.

CLEARANCE RATE	Law enforcement agencies cleared 28.1% of all index crimes in 1998 — compared to 29.3% in 1997.
ARRESTS	The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police, including juveniles and adults, was 57,374 — an increase of 3.9% from the 55,210 persons recorded in 1997. Drug arrests increased 10.6% with 3,950 adults and 689 juveniles charged with drug offenses.
OFFICER ASSAULTS	There were 247 assaults on law enforcement officers in 1998, a 12.7% decrease from the 1997 figure of 283.
POLICE EMPLOYMENT DATA	Statewide there were 2,131 full-time sworn law enforcement officers representing a ratio of 1.72 officers per 1,000 population. Nationally the average rate per 1,000 is 2.5.
TRENDS	The chart on the following pages shows the 10-year trend data for the index crimes recorded by Uniform Crime Reporting. Shown are the number of offenses, the crime rate per 1,000 residents of Maine, the percent cleared in Maine, the national crime rate per 1,000, and the percent change in the number of reported offenses in Maine.